

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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COL. HOLDEN RETIRES FROM STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
Will Serve as Law Enforcement Adviser to Governor

RALEIGH – Colonel Richard W. Holden Sr. today announced his retirement from the North Carolina State Highway Patrol effective June 30, the end of the fiscal year. Holden will continue his service to North Carolina as a law enforcement adviser with the Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP).

“Over the past five years, Col. Holden has done an outstanding job as commander of the largest law enforcement agency in North Carolina,” Easley said. “I am extremely proud that he will continue to serve the citizens of this great state as an adviser to my office.

“Under his leadership, the State Highway Patrol renewed focus on traffic safety and ways to reduce crashes and fatalities,” Easley said. “Col. Holden oversaw implementation of the emergency lane reversal evacuation process for Interstate 40 in the eastern part of the state, and worked hard to ensure that his troopers had the most effective equipment, weapons and training.”

Holden is the first African-American to serve as commander and is one of the original African-American cadets to enter the Basic Patrol School. He is the fourth-longest serving colonel in the patrol’s history.

“Richard Holden is known throughout North Carolina and the nation for his professionalism and excellence in law enforcement,” said Bryan Beatty, secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety. “He will be a great asset to the GHSP’s efforts to continue improving highway safety in North Carolina.”

During his tenure, Holden oversaw formation of mobile field force squads in each of the patrol’s eight troop districts and introduced innovative methods of allocating personnel to high crash corridors to prevent wrecks.

In addition, he oversaw the successful merger in 2003 of the former Motor Vehicles Enforcement Division into the Highway Patrol, which consolidated the two law enforcement agencies responsible for highway safety into the same department.

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